

### **REMARKS**

After entry of the instant Amendment, claims 5, 6, 8-10 and 17-19 remain pending in the instant application. Claim 5 is amended to further define that the oxidation inhibitor is a triazole-based compound, as originally set forth in a Markush group in claim 7, which is cancelled in this Amendment. Claim 10 is amended to correct claim structure. Claims 1-4 and 11-16 were cancelled in a previous amendment. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced with this Amendment.

#### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:**

Claims 5-10 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kleyer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,361,716) as modified. Kleyer, even as modified, does not disclose, teach, or suggest any composition comprising a curable silicone composition and a silver-based powder surface-treated with an oxidation inhibitor that is a triazole-based compound. Quite simply, Kleyer does not teach any oxidation inhibitor that is a triazole-based compound. The claims, as amended, are both novel and non-obvious over the prior art. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the claim rejections and allowance of the pending claims.

## **Conclusion**

In view of the aforementioned arguments and amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that all pending rejections are either moot or overcome. The Applicant also submits that the amended claim and newly added claim are both novel and non-obvious. Therefore, each of the claims is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests such allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

October 3, 2008

Date

/David M. LaPrairie/

**David M. LaPrairie, Registration No. 46,295**

Howard and Howard Attorneys, P.C.

The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite 101

39400 Woodward Ave.

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5151

(248) 723-0442